

The influence of \mathfrak{F}_s -quasinormality of subgroups on the structure of finite groups ^{*}

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Abstract. Let \mathfrak{F} be a class of finite groups. A subgroup H of a finite group G is said to be \mathfrak{F}_s -quasinormal in G if there exists a normal subgroup T of G such that HT is s -permutable in G and $(H \cap T)H_G/H_G$ is contained in the \mathfrak{F} -hypercenter $Z_\infty^\mathfrak{F}(G/H_G)$ of G/H_G . In this paper, we investigate further the influence of \mathfrak{F}_s -quasinormality of some subgroups on the structure of finite groups. New characterization of some classes of finite groups are obtained.

Keywords: \mathfrak{F}_s -quasinormal subgroup; Sylow subgroup; maximal subgroup; n -maximal subgroup.

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1 Introduction

Recall that a subgroup H of G is said to be s -quasinormal (or s -permutable) in G if H is permutable with every Sylow subgroup P of G (that is, $HP = PH$). The s -permutability of a subgroup of a finite group G often yields a wealth of information about the group G itself. In the past, it has been studied by many scholars (such as [1-2], [7-9], [13], [17]). Recently, Huang [10] introduced the following concept:

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Definition 1.1 Let \mathfrak{F} be a non-empty class of groups and H a subgroup of a group G . H is said to be \mathfrak{F}_s -quasinormal in G if there exists a normal subgroup T of G such that HT is s -permutable in G and $(H \cap T)H_G/H_G \leq Z_\infty^\mathfrak{F}(G/H_G)$, where H_G is the maximal normal subgroup of G contained in H .

Note that, for a class \mathfrak{F} of groups, a chief factor H/K of a group G is called \mathfrak{F} -central (see [16] or [4, Definition 2.4.3]) if $[H/K](G/C_G(H/K)) \in \mathfrak{F}$. The symbol $Z_\infty^\mathfrak{F}(G)$ denotes the \mathfrak{F} -hypercenter of a group G , that is, the product of all such normal subgroups H of G whose G -chief factors are \mathfrak{F} -central. A subgroup H of G is said to be \mathfrak{F} -hypercenter in G if $H \leq Z_\infty^\mathfrak{F}(G)$.

By using this new concept, Huang [10] has given some conditions under which a finite group belongs to some formations. In this paper, we will go to further into the influence of \mathfrak{F}_s -quasinormal subgroups on the structure of finite groups. New characterizations of some classes of finite groups are obtained.

All groups considered in the paper are finite and G denotes a finite group. The notations and terminology in this paper are standard, as in [4] and [14].

2 Preliminaries

Let \mathfrak{F} be a class of finite groups. Then \mathfrak{F} is called a formation if it is closed under homomorphic image and every group G has a smallest normal subgroup (called \mathfrak{F} -residual and denoted by $G^\mathfrak{F}$) with quotient in \mathfrak{F} . \mathfrak{F} is said to be saturated if it contains every group G with $G/\Phi(G) \in \mathfrak{F}$. \mathfrak{F} is said to be S -closed (S_n -closed) if it contains all subgroups (all normal subgroups, respectively) of all its groups.

We use \mathfrak{N} , \mathfrak{U} , and \mathfrak{S} to denote the formations of all nilpotent groups, supersoluble groups and soluble groups, respectively.

The following known results are useful in our proof.

Lemma 2.1 [8, Lemma 2.2]. Let G be a group and $H \leq K \leq G$.

- (1) If H is s -permutable in G , then H is s -permutable in K ;
- (2) Suppose that H is normal in G . Then K/H is s -permutable in G/H if and only if K is s -permutable in G ;

- (3) If H is s -permutable in G , then H is subnormal in G ;

- (4) If H and F are s -permutable in G , the $H \cap F$ is s -permutable in G ;

- (5) If H is s -permutable in G and $M \leq G$, then $H \cap M$ is s -permutable in M .

Lemma 2.2 [10, Lemma 2.3]. Let G be a group and $H \leq K \leq G$.

- (1) H is \mathfrak{F}_s -quasinormal in G if and only if there exists a normal subgroup T of G such that HT is s -permutable in G , $H_G \leq T$ and $H/H_G \cap T/H_G \leq Z_\infty^\mathfrak{F}(G/H_G)$;

- (2) Suppose that H is normal in G . Then K/H is \mathfrak{F}_s -quasinormal in G/H if and only if K is \mathfrak{F}_s -quasinormal in G ;

(3) Suppose that H is normal in G . Then, for every \mathfrak{F}_s -quasinormal subgroup E of G satisfying $(|H|, |E|)=1$, HE/H is \mathfrak{F}_s -quasinormal in G/H ;

(4) If H is \mathfrak{F}_s -quasinormal in G and \mathfrak{F} is S -closed, then H is \mathfrak{F}_s -quasinormal in K ;

(5) If H is \mathfrak{F}_s -quasinormal in G , K is normal in G and \mathfrak{F} is S_n -closed, then H is \mathfrak{F}_s -quasinormal in K ;

(6) If $G \in \mathfrak{F}$, then every subgroup of G is \mathfrak{F}_s -quasinormal in G .

Lemma 2.3 [6, Lemma 2.2]. If H is a p -subgroup of G for some prime p and H is s -permutable in G , then:

(1) $H \leq O_p(G)$;

(2) $O^p(G) \leq N_G(H)$.

Lemma 2.4 [18]. If A is a subnormal subgroup of a group G and A is a π -group, then $A \leq O_\pi(G)$.

Lemma 2.5 [15, II, Lemma 7.9]. Let N be a nilpotent normal subgroup of G . If $N \neq 1$ and $N \cap \Phi(G) = 1$, then N is a direct product of some minimal normal subgroups of G .

Lemma 2.6 [5, Lemma 2.3]. Let \mathfrak{F} be a saturated formation containing \mathfrak{U} and G a group with a normal subgroup E such that $G/E \in \mathfrak{F}$. If E is cyclic, then $G \in \mathfrak{F}$.

Recall that a subgroup H of G is said to be \mathfrak{F} -supplemented in G if there exists a subgroup T of G such that $G = HT$ and $T \in \mathfrak{F}$, where \mathfrak{F} is some class of groups. The following Lemma is clear.

Lemma 2.7 Let \mathfrak{F} be a formation and H a subgroup of G . If H has an \mathfrak{F} -supplement in G , then:

(1) If $N \trianglelefteq G$, then HN/N has an \mathfrak{F} -supplement in G/N .

(2) If \mathfrak{F} is S -closed and $H \leq K \leq G$, then H has an \mathfrak{F} -supplement in K .

Lemma 2.8 [10, Theorem 3.1]. Let \mathfrak{F} be an S -closed saturated formation containing \mathfrak{U} and G a group. Then $G \in \mathfrak{F}$ if and only if G has a normal subgroup E such that $G/E \in \mathfrak{F}$ and every maximal subgroup of every non-cyclic Sylow subgroup of E not having a supersoluble supplement in G is \mathfrak{U}_s -quasinormal in G .

Lemma 2.9 [10, Theorem 3.2]. Let \mathfrak{F} be a saturated formation containing \mathfrak{U} and G a group. Then $G \in \mathfrak{F}$ if and only if G has a soluble normal subgroup E such that $G/E \in \mathfrak{F}$ and every maximal subgroup of every non-cyclic Sylow subgroup of $F(E)$ not having a supersoluble supplement in G is \mathfrak{U}_s -quasinormal in G .

Lemma 2.10 [3, Main Theorem]. Suppose G has a Hall π -subgroup and $2 \notin \pi$. Then all the Hall π -subgroups are conjugate in G .

Lemma 2.11 [6, Lemma 2.5]. Let G be a group and p a prime such that $p^{n+1} \nmid |G|$ for some integer $n \geq 1$. If $(|G|, (p-1)(p^2-1) \cdots (p^n-1)) = 1$, then G is p -nilpotent.

The generalized Fitting subgroup $F^*(G)$ of a group G is the product of all normal quasinilpotent subgroups of G . We also need in our proofs the following well-known facts about this subgroups (see [12, Chapter X]).

Lemma 2.12. Let G be a group and N a subgroup of G .

- (1) If N is normal in G , then $F^*(N) \leq F^*(G)$.
- (2) If N is normal in G and $N \leq F^*(G)$, then $F^*(G)/N \leq F^*(G/N)$.
- (3) $F(G) \leq F^*(G) = F^*(F^*(G))$. If $F^*(G)$ is soluble, then $F^*(G) = F(G)$.
- (4) $C_G(F^*(G)) \leq F(G)$.
- (5) $F^*(G) = F(G)E(G)$, $F(G) \cap E(G) = Z(E(G))$ and $E(G)/Z(E(G))$ is the direct product of simple non-abelian groups, where $E(G)$ is the layer of G .

Lemma 2.13 [8, Lemma 2.15-2.16].

- (1) If H is a normal soluble subgroup of a group G , then $F^*(G/\Phi(H)) = F^*(G)/\Phi(H)$.
- (2) If K is a normal p -subgroup of a group G contained in $Z(G)$, then $F^*(G/K) = F^*(G)/K$.

3 New Characterization of supersoluble groups

Lemma 3.1 Let p be the smallest prime dividing $|G|$ and P some Sylow p -subgroup of G . Then G is soluble if and only if every maximal subgroup of P is \mathfrak{S}_s -quasinormal in G .

Proof. The necessity is obvious since $Z_\infty^\mathfrak{S}(G) = G$ whenever $G \in \mathfrak{S}$. Hence we only need to prove the sufficiency. Suppose that the assertion is false and let G be a counterexample of minimal order. Then $p = 2$ by the well known Feit-Thompson Theorem of groups of odd order. We proceed the proof via the following steps:

(1) $O_2(G) = 1$.

Assume that $N = O_2(G) \neq 1$. Then P/N is a Sylow 2-subgroup of G/N . Let M/N be a maximal subgroup of P/N . Then M is a maximal subgroup of P . By the hypothesis and Lemma 2.2(2), M/N is \mathfrak{S}_s -quasinormal in G/N . The minimal choice of G implies that G/N is soluble. It follows that G is soluble, a contradiction. Hence (1) holds.

(2) $O_{2'}(G) = 1$.

Assume that $D = O_{2'}(G) \neq 1$. Then PD/D is a Sylow 2-subgroup of G/D . Suppose that M/D is a maximal subgroup of PD/D . Then there exists a maximal subgroup P_1 of P such that $M = P_1D$. By the hypothesis and Lemma 2.2(3), $M/D = P_1D/D$ is \mathfrak{S}_s -quasinormal in G/D . Hence G/D is soluble by the choice of G . It follows that G is soluble, a contradiction.

(3) *Final contradiction.*

Let P_1 be a maximal subgroup of P . By the hypothesis, there exists a normal subgroup K of G such that P_1K is s -permutable in G and $(P_1 \cap K)(P_1)_G/(P_1)_G \leq Z_\infty^\mathfrak{S}(G/(P_1)_G)$. Note that $Z_\infty^\mathfrak{S}(G)$ is a soluble normal subgroup of G . By (1) and (2), we have $(P_1)_G = 1$ and $Z_\infty^\mathfrak{S}(G) = 1$. This induces that $P_1 \cap K = 1$. If $K = 1$, then P_1 is s -permutable in G and so $P_1 = 1$ by (1) (2) and Lemma 2.3(1). This means that $|P| = 2$. Then by [14, (10.1.9)], G is 2-nilpotent and so G is soluble, a contradiction. We may, therefore, assume that $K \neq 1$.

If $2 \mid |K|$, then $|K_2| = 2$, where K_2 is a Sylow 2-subgroup of K . By [14, (10.1.9)] again, we see that K is 2-nilpotent, and so K has a normal 2-complement $K_{2'}$. Since $K_{2'} \text{ char } K \trianglelefteq G$, $K_{2'} \trianglelefteq G$. Hence by (2), $K_{2'} = 1$. Consequently $|K| = 2$, which contradicts (1). If $2 \nmid |K|$, then K is a $2'$ -group. Hence by (2), $K \leq O_{2'}(G) = 1$, also a contradiction. This completes the proof.

Theorem 3.2 *Let $G = AB$, where A is a subnormal subgroup of G , and B is a supersoluble Hall subgroup of G in which all Sylow subgroups are cyclic. If every maximal subgroup of every non-cyclic Sylow subgroup of A is \mathfrak{U}_s -quasinormal in G , then G is supersoluble.*

Proof. Suppose that the assertion is false and let G be a counterexample of minimal order. Then:

(1) *Each proper subgroup of G containing A is supersoluble.*

Let $A \leq M < G$. Then $M = M \cap AB = A(M \cap B)$. Obviously, $M \cap B$ is a Hall subgroup of M and every Sylow subgroup of $M \cap B$ is cyclic. By Lemma 2.2(4), every maximal subgroup of every non-cyclic Sylow subgroup of A is \mathfrak{U}_s -quasinormal in M . The minimal choice of G implies that M is supersoluble.

(2) *Let H be a non-trivial normal p -subgroup of G for some prime p . If H contains some Sylow p -subgroup of A or a Sylow p -subgroup of A is cyclic or $H \leq A$, then G/H is supersoluble.*

If $A \leq H$, then $G/H = BH/H \cong B/(B \cap H)$ is supersoluble. Now we can assume that $A \not\leq H$. Clearly, $G/H = (AH/H)(BH/H)$, where AH/H is subnormal in G/H and BH/H is supersoluble. Let Q/H be any non-cyclic Sylow q -subgroup of AH/H and Q_1/H a maximal subgroup of Q/H . Then there exists a non-cyclic Sylow q -subgroup A_q of A such that $Q = A_qH$ and a maximal subgroup A_1 of A_q such that $Q_1 = A_1H$. If $H \leq A$, then the assertion holds by the choice of G and Lemma 2.2(2). We may, therefore, assume that $H \not\leq A$. Let P be a Sylow p -subgroup of A . Assume that P is cyclic or $P \leq H$. Then $p \neq q$. Clearly, $Q_1 \cap A_q = A_1$ is a maximal subgroup of A_q . By the hypothesis, A_1 is \mathfrak{U}_s -quasinormal in G . Therefore, $Q_1/H = A_1H/H$ is \mathfrak{U}_s -quasinormal in G/H by Lemma 2.2(3). This shows that the conditions of the theorem are true for G/H and so G/H is supersoluble by the minimal choice of G .

(3) *There exists at least one Sylow subgroup of A which is non-cyclic.*

It follows from the well known fact that a group G is supersoluble if all its Sylow subgroups are cyclic.

(4) *G is soluble.*

If $A \neq G$, then A is supersoluble by (1). Let p be the largest prime divisor of $|A|$. Then $A_p \trianglelefteq A$. By Lemma 2.4, $A_p \leq O_p(G)$. By (2), $G/O_p(G)$ is supersoluble. It follows that G is soluble.

We now only need to consider the case that $A = G$. If G is not soluble and let p be

the minimal prime divisor of $|G|$. Then $p = 2$ by the well-known Feit-Thompson Theorem. Hence by Lemma 3.1, G is soluble.

(5) G has a unique minimal normal subgroup N such that $N = O_p(G) = C_G(N)$ is a non-cyclic p -subgroup of G for some prime p and $G = [N]M$, where M is a supersoluble maximal subgroup of G .

Let N be an arbitrary minimal normal subgroup of G . By (4), N is a p -group. If $p \in \pi(B)$, then the Sylow p -subgroups of G are cyclic and so the Sylow p -subgroups of A are cyclic. If $p \notin \pi(B)$, then clearly, $N \subseteq A$. Hence by (2), G/N is supersoluble. If N is cyclic, then by Lemma 2.6, G is supersoluble, a contradiction. Since the class of all supersoluble groups is a saturated formation, N is the only minimal normal subgroup N of G and $\Phi(G) = 1$. This implies that (5) holds.

(6) N is not a Sylow subgroup of G and $Z_\infty^\mathfrak{U}(G) = 1$.

By (5), clearly, $Z_\infty^\mathfrak{U}(G) = 1$. Assume that N is a Sylow p -subgroup of G . Let N_1 be a maximal subgroup of N . Then by hypothesis, N_1 is \mathfrak{U}_s -quasinormal in G . Hence there exists a normal subgroup K of G such that N_1K is s -permutable in G and $N_1 \cap K \leq Z_\infty^\mathfrak{U}(G) = 1$ since $(N_1)_G = 1$. It follows that $N_1 \leq N_1 \cap N \leq N_1 \cap K = 1$. Hence $|N| = p$. This contradiction shows that N is not a Sylow p -subgroup of G .

(7) A is supersoluble.

If A is not supersoluble, then $G = A$ by (1). Let q be the largest prime divisor of $|G|$ and Q is a Sylow q -subgroup of G . Then QN/N is a Sylow q -subgroup of G/N . Since G/N is supersoluble, $QN/N \trianglelefteq G/N$. It follows that $QN \trianglelefteq G$. Let P be a non-cyclic Sylow p -subgroup of $G = A$. If $p = q$, then $P = Q = QN \trianglelefteq G$. Therefore $N = O_p(G) = P$ is the Sylow p -subgroup of G , a contradiction. Assume that $q > p$. Then clearly $QP = QNP$ is a subgroup of G . Since $N \not\leq \Phi(G)$, $N \not\leq \Phi(P)$ by [11, III, Lemma 3.3(a)]. Let P_1 be a maximal subgroup of P such that $N \not\leq P_1$. Then $(P_1)_G = 1$. By the hypothesis, P_1 is \mathfrak{U}_s -quasinormal in G . Hence, there exists a normal subgroup T of G such that P_1T is s -permutable in G and $P_1 \cap T \leq Z_\infty^\mathfrak{U}(G) = 1$. Obviously, $T \neq 1$ (In fact, if $T = 1$, then $P_1 \leq O_p(G) = N$ by Lemma 2.3(1). Hence $P_1 = N$ or $P = N$. This is impossible). Thus $N \leq T$, and so $P_1 \cap N \leq P_1 \cap T = 1$. This induces that $|N| = |P : P_1| = p$, which contradicts (5). Thus (7) holds.

(8) *The final contradiction.*

Let q be the largest prime divisor of $|A|$ and A_q a Sylow p -subgroup of A . Since A is supersoluble by (7), $A_q \trianglelefteq A$. Hence $A_q \leq O_q(G)$. If $q \mid |B|$, then $O_q(G) \leq G_q$, where G_q is a cyclic Sylow q -subgroup of B and so $O_q(G)$ is cyclic. In view of (2), $G/O_q(G)$ is supersoluble. It follows that G is supersoluble, a contradiction. Hence $q \nmid |B|$. Then, A_q is a Sylow q -subgroup of G and so $A_q = O_q(G) \neq 1$. This means that $q = p$ and so $N = A_p = G_p$, which contradicts (6). The final contradiction completes the proof.

Theorem 3.3 *Let \mathfrak{F} be an S -closed saturated formation containing \mathfrak{U} and H a normal*

subgroup of G such that $G/H \in \mathfrak{F}$. Suppose that every maximal subgroup of every non-cyclic Sylow subgroup of $F^*(H)$ having no supersoluble supplement in G is \mathfrak{U}_s -quasinormal in G . Then $G \in \mathfrak{F}$.

Proof. We first prove that the theorem is true if $\mathfrak{F} = \mathfrak{U}$. Suppose that the assertion is false and consider a counterexample for which $|G||H|$ is minimal. Then:

(1) $H = G$ and $F^*(G) = F(G)$.

By Lemma 2.8, $F^*(H)$ is supersoluble. Hence $F^*(H) = F(H)$ by Lemma 2.12(3). Since (H, H) satisfies the hypothesis, the minimal choice of (G, H) implies that H is supersoluble if $H < G$. Then $G \in \mathfrak{U}$ by Lemma 2.9, a contradiction.

(2) Every proper normal subgroup N of G containing $F^*(G)$ is supersoluble.

Let N be a proper normal subgroup of G containing $F^*(G)$. By Lemma 2.12, $F^*(G) = F^*(F^*(G)) \leq F^*(N) \leq F^*(G)$. Hence $F^*(N) = F^*(G)$. Let M be a maximal subgroup of any non-cyclic Sylow subgroup of $F^*(N)$. If there exists a supersoluble subgroup T such that $G = MT$, then $N = M(N \cap T)$ and $N \cap T \in \mathfrak{U}$. This means that M has a supersoluble supplement in N . Now assume that M has no supersoluble supplement in G . Then by hypothesis and Lemma 2.2(4), M is \mathfrak{U}_s -quasinormal in N . This shows that (N, N) satisfies the hypothesis. Hence N is supersoluble by the minimal choice of (G, H) .

(3) If $p \in \pi(F(G))$, then $\Phi(O_p(G)) = 1$ and so $O_p(G)$ is elementary abelian. In particular, $F^*(G) = F(G)$ is abelian and $C_G(F(G)) = F(G)$.

Suppose that $\Phi(O_p(G)) \neq 1$ for some $p \in \pi(F(G))$. By Lemma 2.13(1), we have $F^*(G/\Phi(O_p(G))) = F^*(G)/\Phi(O_p(G))$. By using Lemma 2.2, we see that the pair $(G/\Phi(O_p(G)), F^*(G)/\Phi(O_p(G)))$ satisfies the hypothesis. The minimal choice of (G, H) implies $G/\Phi(O_p(G)) \in \mathfrak{U}$. Since \mathfrak{U} is a saturated formation, we obtain that $G \in \mathfrak{U}$, a contradiction. This means that $\Phi(O_p(G)) = 1$ and so $O_p(G)$ is elementary abelian. Hence $F^*(G) = F(G)$ is abelian and $F(G) \leq C_G(F(G))$. Put $N = C_G(F(G))$. Then, clearly, $F(N) = F(G)$. If $N = G$, then $F(G) \leq Z(G)$. Let P_1 be a maximal subgroup of some Sylow p -subgroup of $F(G)$. Then $F(G/P_1) = F(G)/P_1$ by Lemma 2.13(2). Hence $(G/P_1, F(G)/P_1)$ satisfies the hypothesis and so $G/P_1 \in \mathfrak{F}$. Then since $P \leq Z(G)$, we obtain $G \in \mathfrak{F}$. This contradiction shows that $N < G$. Hence by (2), N is soluble and so $C_N(F(N)) \subseteq F(N)$. It follows that $N = C_G(F(G)) = F(G)$.

(4) G has no normal subgroup of prime order contained in $F(G)$.

Suppose that L is a normal subgroup of G contained in $F(G)$ and $|L| = p$. Put $C = C_G(L)$. Clearly, $F(G) \leq C \trianglelefteq G$. If $C < G$, then C is soluble by (2). Since G/C is cyclic, G is soluble. Then by the hypothesis and Lemma 2.9, $G \in \mathfrak{U}$, a contradiction. Hence $C = G$ and so $L \leq Z(G)$. By Lemma 2.13(2) $F^*(G/L) = F^*(G)/L = F(G)/L$. Hence G/L satisfies the hypothesis by Lemma 2.2. The minimal choice of (G, H) implies that $G/L \in \mathfrak{U}$ and consequently G is supersoluble, a contradiction.

(5) For some $p \in \pi(F(G))$, $O_p(G)$ is a non-cyclic Sylow p -subgroup of $F(G)$.

Clearly, $F(G) = O_{p_1}(G) \times O_{p_2}(G) \times \cdots \times O_{p_r}(G)$ for some primes p_i , $i = 1, 2, \dots, r$. If all Sylow subgroups of $F(G)$ are cyclic, then $G/C_G(O_{p_i}(G))$ is abelian for any $i \in \{1 \cdots r\}$ and so $G/\cap_{i=1}^r C_G(O_{p_i}(G)) = G/C_G(F(G)) = G/F(G)$ is abelian. Therefore G is soluble. It follows from Lemma 2.9 and the hypothesis that $G \in \mathfrak{U}$, a contradiction.

(6) *Every maximal subgroup of every non-cyclic Sylow subgroup of $F(G)$ has no supersoluble supplement in G .*

Let P be a non-cyclic Sylow subgroup of $F(G)$ and P_1 a maximal subgroup of P . Then $P = O_p(G)$ for some $p \in \pi(F(G))$. If P_1 has a supersoluble supplement in G , that is, there exists a supersoluble subgroup K of G such that $G = P_1K = O_p(G)K$, then $G/O_p(G) \simeq K/K \cap O_p(G)$ is supersoluble and so G is soluble. Hence as above, $G \in \mathfrak{U}$, a contradiction.

(7) $P \cap \Phi(G) \neq 1$, for some non-cyclic Sylow subgroup P of $F(G)$.

Assume that $P \cap \Phi(G) = 1$. Then $P = R_1 \times R_2 \times \cdots \times R_m$, where $R_i (i \in \{1, \dots, m\})$ is a minimal normal subgroup of G by Lemma 2.5. We claim that R_i are of order p for all $i \in \{1, \dots, m\}$. Assume that $|R_i| > p$, for some i . Without loss of generality, we let $|R_1| > p$. Let R_1^* be a maximal subgroup of R_1 . Obviously, $R_1^* \neq 1$. Then $R_1^* \times R_2 \times \cdots \times R_m = P_1$ is a maximal subgroup of P . Put $T = R_2 \times \cdots \times R_m$, Clearly $(P_1)_G = T$. By (6) and the hypothesis, P_1 is \mathfrak{U}_s -quasinormal in G . Hence by Lemma 2.2(1), there exists a normal subgroup N of G such that $(P_1)_G \leq N$, P_1N is s -permutable in G and $P_1/(P_1)_G \cap N/(P_1)_G \leq Z_\infty^\mathfrak{U}(G/(P_1)_G)$. Assume that $P_1/(P_1)_G \cap N/(P_1)_G \neq 1$. Let $Z_\infty^\mathfrak{U}(G/(P_1)_G) = V/(P_1)_G = V/T$. Then $P/T \cap V/T \trianglelefteq G/T$. Since $P \cap V \geq P_1 \cap N \cap V \geq P_1 \cap N > (P_1)_G = T$, we have $P/T \cap V/T \neq 1$. Because $P/T \simeq R_1$ and R_1 is a minimal normal subgroup of G , $P/T \subseteq V/T$. This implies that $|R_1| = |P/T| = p$. This contradiction shows that $P_1 \cap N = (P_1)_G = T$. Consequently $P_1N = R_1^*TN = R_1^*N$ and $R_1^* \cap N = 1$. Since $R_1 \cap N \trianglelefteq G$, $R_1 \cap N = 1$ or $R_1 \cap N = R_1$. But since $R_1^* \cap N = 1$, we have that $R_1 \cap N = 1$. Thus $R_1^* = R_1^*(R_1 \cap N) = R_1 \cap R_1^*N$ is s -permutable in G . It follows from Lemma 2.3(2) that $O^p(G) \leq N_G(R_1^*)$. Thus $|G : N_G(R_1^*)|$ is a power of p for every maximal subgroup R_1^* of R_1 . This induces that p divides the number of all maximal subgroups of R_1 . This contradicts [11, III, Theorem 8.5(d)]. Therefore $|R_i| = p$, which contradicts (4). Thus (7) holds.

(8) $F(G) = P$ is a p -group, P contains a unique minimal normal subgroup L of G and $L \subseteq \Phi(G)$.

Suppose that $1 \neq Q$ is a Sylow q -subgroup of $F(G)$ for some prime $q \neq p$ and let L be a minimal normal subgroup of G contained in $P \cap \Phi(G)$. By (3), Q is elementary abelian. By Lemma 2.12, $F^*(G/L) = F(G/L)E(G/L)$ and $[F(G/L), E(G/L)] = 1$, where $E(G/L)$ is the layer of G/L . Since $L \leq \Phi(G)$, $F(G/L) = F(G)/L$. Now let $E/L = E(G/L)$. Since Q is normal in G and $[F(G)/L, E/L] = 1$, we have $[Q, E] \leq Q \cap L = 1$. It follows from (3) that $F(G)E \leq C_G(Q) \trianglelefteq G$. If $C_G(Q) < G$, then $C_G(Q)$ is supersoluble by (1) and (2). Thus

$E(G/L) = E/L$ is supersoluble and consequently $F^*(G/L) = F(G)/L$ by Lemma 2.12(5). Now, by Lemma 2.2, we see that $(G/L, F(G)/L)$ satisfies the hypothesis. The minimal choice of (G, H) implies that G/L is supersoluble and so is G . This contradiction shows that $C_G(Q) = G$, i.e. $Q \leq Z(G)$, which contradicts (4). Thus $F(G) = P$.

Let X be a minimal normal subgroup of G contained in P with $X \neq L$. Let $E/L = E(G/L)$ is the layer of G/L . As above, we see that $F^*(G/L) = F(G/L)E(G/L)$ and $[F(G)/L, E/L] = 1$. Hence $[X, E] \leq X \cap L = 1$, i.e., $[X, E] = 1$. It follows from (3) that $F(G)E \leq C_G(X) \trianglelefteq G$. If $C_G(X) < G$, then $C_G(X)$ is supersoluble by (1) and (2). Thus $E(G/L) = E/L$ is supersoluble and consequently $F^*(G/L) = F(G)/L$. Obviously, G/L satisfies the hypothesis. By the choice of (G, H) , we have that G/L is supersoluble and so is G , a contradiction. Hence $C_G(X) = G$, i.e. $X \leq Z(G)$, which also contradicts (4). Thus L is the unique minimal normal subgroup of G contained in P . Finally, $L \subseteq \Phi(G)$ by (7).

(9) $L < P$.

Suppose $L = P$. Let P_1 be a maximal subgroup of P such that P_1 is normal in some Sylow subgroup of G . Then $(P_1)_G = 1$. By the hypothesis and (8), P_1 is \mathfrak{U}_s -quasinormal in G . Hence there exists a normal subgroup K of G such that P_1K is s -permutable in G and $P_1 \cap K \leq Z_\infty^{\mathfrak{U}}(G)$. If $P_1 \cap K \neq 1$, then $1 < P_1 \cap K \leq P \cap Z_\infty^{\mathfrak{U}}(G)$, which implies that $P = P \cap Z_\infty^{\mathfrak{U}}(G)$ and $|P| = p$ since P is a minimal normal subgroup of G . This contradicts (4). So we may assume $P_1 \cap K = 1$. Since P is a minimal normal subgroup of G , $P \cap K = P$ or 1 . If $P \cap K = P$, then $P \subseteq K$, and so $|P| = p$, which contradicts (4). If $P \cap K = 1$, then $P \cap P_1K = P_1(P \cap K) = P_1$. Hence P_1 is s -permutable in G . Then by Lemma 2.3(2), $O^p(G) \leq N_G(P_1)$. This induces that $P_1 \trianglelefteq G$. This means that $P_1 = (P_1)_G = 1$ and $|P| = p$, also a contradiction.

(10) *Final contradiction (for $\mathfrak{F} = \mathfrak{U}$).*

By (3) and (8), P is an elementary abelian group, and so L has a complement in P , T say. Let $P_1 = TL_1$, where L_1 is a maximal subgroup of L . Then $1 \neq P_1$ and clearly P_1 is a maximal subgroup of P such that P_1 is normal in some Sylow subgroup of G . Hence by (6), P_1 is \mathfrak{U}_s -quasinormal in G and $(P_1)_G = 1$ since L is the unique minimal normal subgroup of G contained in P . Hence there exists a normal subgroup S of G such that P_1S is s -permutable in G and $P_1 \cap S \leq Z_\infty^{\mathfrak{U}}(G)$. If $P_1 \cap S \neq 1$, then $1 < P_1 \cap S \leq P \cap Z_\infty^{\mathfrak{U}}(G)$ and so G has a minimal normal subgroup N of order p contained in P , which is contrary to (4). Hence $P_1 \cap S = 1$. If $P \cap S \neq 1$, then $L \leq P \cap S$ and so $L_1 \leq S$, which contradicts $P_1 \cap S = 1$. If $P \cap S = 1$, then $P_1 = P_1(P \cap S) = P \cap P_1S$ is s -permutable in G . Hence $O^p(G) \leq N_G(P_1)$ by Lemma 2.3(2). It follows that $P_1 \trianglelefteq G$, which contradicts $(P_1)_G = 1$. The final contradiction shows that the theorem holds when $\mathfrak{F} = \mathfrak{U}$.

Now we prove that the theorem holds for \mathfrak{F} .

Since $H/H \in \mathfrak{U}$, by the assertion proved above and Lemma 2.2, we see that H is supersoluble. In particular, H is soluble and hence $F^*(H) = F(H)$. Now by using Lemma

2.9, we obtain that $G \in \mathfrak{F}$. This completes the proof of the theorem.

4 New Characterization of p -nilpotent groups

Lemma 4.1 *Let G be a group and p a prime divisor of $|G|$ with $(|G|, (p-1)(p^2-1)\cdots(p^n-1)) = 1$ for some integer $n \geq 1$. Suppose P is a Sylow p -subgroup of G and every n -maximal subgroup of P (if exists) has a p -nilpotent supplement in G . Then G is p -nilpotent.*

Proof. Assume that $p^{n+1} \mid |G|$. Let P_{n1} be an n -maximal subgroup of P . By hypothesis, P_{n1} has a p -nilpotent supplement T_1 in G . Let K_1 be a normal Hall p' -subgroup of T_1 . Obviously, K_1 is a Hall p' -subgroup of G . Hence $G = P_{n1}T_1 = P_{n1}N_G(K_1)$. We claim that $K_1 \trianglelefteq G$. Indeed, if $K_1 \not\trianglelefteq G$, then $N_P(K_1) = N_G(K_1) \cap P \neq P$ since $T_1 \subseteq N_G(K_1)$. Therefore, there exists a maximal subgroup P_2 of P such that $N_P(K_1) \leq P_2$. Let P_{n2} be an n -maximal subgroup of P contained in P_2 . Since $P = P \cap G = P \cap P_{n1}N_G(K_1) = P_{n1}(P \cap N_G(K_1)) = P_{n1}N_P(K_1)$, we have $P_{n1} \neq P_{n2}$. By hypothesis, P_{n2} has a p -nilpotent supplement in G . With the same discussion as above, we can find a Hall p' -subgroup K_2 of G such that $G = P_{n2}N_G(K_2) = P_2N_G(K_2)$. If $p = 2$, then by Lemma 2.10, K_1 conjugates with K_2 in G . If $p > 2$, then G is soluble by Feit-Thompson Theorem. Hence, K_1 also conjugates with K_2 in G . This means that there exists an element $g \in P_2$, such that $(K_2)^g = K_1$. Then $G = (P_2N_G(K_2))^g = P_2N_G(K_1)$. Hence, $P = P \cap G = P \cap P_2N_G(K_1) = P_2(P \cap N_G(K_1)) = P_2N_P(K_1) = P_2$. This contradiction shows that $p^{n+1} \nmid |G|$. Thus G is p -nilpotent by Lemma 2.11.

Lemma 4.2 *Let G be a group and p a prime divisor of $|G|$ with $(|G|, (p-1)(p^2-1)\cdots(p^n-1)) = 1$ for some integer $n \geq 1$. Suppose that G has a Sylow p -subgroup P such that every n -maximal subgroup of P (if exists) either has a p -nilpotent supplement or is \mathfrak{U}_s -quasinormal in G , then G is p -nilpotent.*

Proof. Suppose the Lemma is false and let G be a counterexample of minimal order. By Lemma 2.11, we have $p^{n+1} \mid |G|$. Hence P has a non-trivial n -maximal subgroup. We proceed via the following steps:

(1) $O_{p'}(G) = 1$.

If $O_{p'}(G) \neq 1$. Then we may choose a minimal normal subgroup N of G such that $N \leq O_{p'}(G)$. Clearly, $(|G/N|, (p-1)(p^2-1)\cdots(p^n-1)) = 1$ and PN/N is a Sylow p -subgroup of G/N . Assume that L/N is an n -maximal subgroup of PN/N . Then, clearly, $L/N = M_pN/N$, where M_p is an n -maximal subgroup of P . By hypothesis, M_p either has a p -nilpotent supplement or is \mathfrak{U}_s -quasinormal in G . By Lemma 2.7(1) and Lemma 2.2(3), we see that G/N (with respect to PN/N) satisfies the hypothesis. The minimal choice of G implies that G/N is p -nilpotent and consequently G is p -nilpotent, a contradiction.

(2) P has a maximal subgroup P_1 such that P_1 has no p -nilpotent supplement in G (This follows from Lemma 4.1).

(3) G is soluble.

Suppose that G is not soluble. Then $p = 2$ by the well known Feit-Thompson Theorem. Assume that $O_2(G) \neq 1$. By Lemma 2.7 and Lemma 2.2(2), $G/O_2(G)$ satisfies the hypothesis. Hence $G/O_2(G)$ is 2-nilpotent. It follow that G is soluble, a contradiction. Now assume that $O_2(G) = 1$. Then $(P_n)_G = 1$, where P_n is an n -maximal subgroup of P . Since P_n has no p -nilpotent supplement in G , P_n is \mathfrak{U}_s -quasinormal in G by the hypothesis. Hence there exists $K \trianglelefteq G$ such that $P_n K$ is s -permutable in G and $P_n \cap K \leq Z_\infty^{\mathfrak{U}}(G)$. If $K = 1$, then $P_n \leq O_2(G) = 1$ by Lemma 2.3(1), a contradiction. Thus, $K \neq 1$. If $Z_\infty^{\mathfrak{U}}(G) \neq 1$, then there exists a minimal normal subgroup H of G contained in $Z_\infty^{\mathfrak{U}}(G)$. Hence H is of prime power order. This is impossible since $O_{2'}(G) = 1$ and $O_2(G) = 1$. Hence $P_n \cap K = 1$ and so $2^{n+1} \nmid |K|$. Then by Lemma 2.11, K has a normal Hall $2'$ -subgroup T . Since $T \text{ char } K \trianglelefteq G$, $T \trianglelefteq G$. It follows from (1) that $T = 1$. Consequently, $K \leq O_2(G) = 1$, a contradiction again. Hence (3) holds.

(4) $N = O_p(G)$ is the only minimal normal subgroup of G and $G = [N]M$, where M is a maximal subgroup of G and M is p -nilpotent.

Let N be a minimal normal subgroup of G . By (1) and (3), N is an elementary abelian p -group and $N \leq O_p(G)$. By Lemma 2.7(1) and Lemma 2.2(2), G/N satisfies the hypothesis and so G/N is p -nilpotent. Since the class of all p -nilpotent groups is a saturated formation, N is the unique minimal normal subgroup of G and $\Phi(G) = 1$. Hence $O_p(G) = N = C_G(N)$, and consequently $G = [N]M$, where M is a p -nilpotent maximal subgroup of G . Thus (4) holds.

(5) *The final contradiction.*

Let P_n be an n -maximal subgroup of P such that $P_n \leq P_1$. Then P_n has also no p -nilpotent supplement in G . Hence there exists a normal subgroup K of G such that $P_n K$ is s -permutable in G and $(P_n \cap K)(P_n)_G / (P_n)_G \leq Z_\infty^{\mathfrak{F}}(G / (P_n)_G)$. We claim that $(P_n)_G = 1$. Indeed, if $(P_n)_G \neq 1$, then by (2), $O_p(G) = N = (P_n)_G$. Hence $G = NM = (P_n)_G M = P_n M$, which contradicts (2). Therefore, $P_n \cap K \leq Z_\infty^{\mathfrak{U}}(G)$. If $K = 1$, then P_n is s -permutable in G , and so $P_n \leq O_p(G) = N$ and $O^p(G) \leq N_G(P_n)$ by Lemma 2.3. Hence $1 \neq P_n \leq P_n^G = P_n^{O^p(G)P} = P_n^P = (P_n \cap N)^P \leq (P_1 \cap N)^P = P_1 \cap N \leq N$. On the other hand, obviously, $N \leq P_n^G$. Thus $N = P_n^G = P_1 \cap N$. It follows that $N \leq P_1$, and so $G = NM = P_1 M$. This means that P_1 has a p -nilpotent supplement in G . This contradiction shows that $K \neq 1$. If $P_n \cap K = 1$, then $p^{n+1} \nmid |K|$. By Lemma 2.11, K is p -nilpotent and $K_{p'} \leq O_{p'}(G) = 1$ by (1). Hence $K = N = O_p(G)$. It follows from Lemma 2.3(1) that $P_n K = K$ and so $P_n \cap K \neq 1$, a contradiction. Hence $P_n \cap K \neq 1$. This means that $Z_\infty^{\mathfrak{U}}(G) \neq 1$ and so $N \leq Z_\infty^{\mathfrak{U}}(G)$. Consequently, $|N| = |O_p(G)| = p$. Therefore, $G/N \cong G/C_G(N)$ is isomorphic with some subgroup of $\text{Aut}(N)$ of order $p - 1$.

Since $(|G|, (p-1)(p^2-1)\cdots(p^n-1)) = 1$, $G/N = 1$. Consequently, $G = N$ is an elementary abelian p -group. The final contradiction completes the proof.

Theorem 4.3 *Let p be a prime and G a group. Suppose that $(|G|, (p-1)(p^2-1)\cdots(p^n-1)) = 1$ for some integer $n \geq 1$. Then G is p -nilpotent if and only if G has a normal subgroup E such that G/E is p -nilpotent and every n -maximal subgroup of P (if exists) either has a p -nilpotent supplement or is \mathfrak{U}_s -quasinormal in G , where P is a Sylow p -subgroup of E .*

Proof. The necessity is obvious. We only need to prove the sufficiency. Suppose it is false and let G be a counterexample of minimal order. By Lemma 2.7(2) and Lemma 2.2(4), every n -maximal subgroup of P either has a p -nilpotent supplement or is \mathfrak{U}_s -quasinormal in E . Hence E is p -nilpotent by Lemma 4.2. Then, $E \neq G$. Let T be a normal Hall p' -subgroup of E . Clearly, $T \trianglelefteq G$. We proceed the proof via the following steps:

(1) $T = 1$, and so $P = E \trianglelefteq G$.

Suppose that $T \neq 1$. Since T is a normal Hall p' -subgroup of E and $E \trianglelefteq G$, then $T \trianglelefteq G$. We show that G/T (with respect to E/T) satisfies the hypothesis. Indeed, $(G/T)/(E/T) \simeq G/E$ is p -nilpotent and $E/T = PT/T$ is a p -group. Suppose that M_n/T is an n -maximal subgroup of PT/T and $P_n = M_n \cap P$. Then P_n is an n -maximal subgroup of P and $M_n = P_n T$. By the hypothesis, P_n either has a p -nilpotent supplement or is \mathfrak{U}_s -quasinormal in G . By Lemma 2.7(1) and Lemma 2.2(3), $M_n/T = P_n T/T$ either has a p -nilpotent supplement or is \mathfrak{U}_s -quasinormal in G/T . The minimal choice of G implies that G/T is p -nilpotent. This implies that G is p -nilpotent. This contradiction shows $T = 1$. Hence $P = E \trianglelefteq G$.

(2) Let Q be a Sylow q -subgroup of G , where q is a prime divisor of $|G|$ with $q \neq p$. Then $PQ = P \times Q$.

By (1), $P = E \trianglelefteq G$, PQ is a subgroup of G . By Lemma 2.7(2) and Lemma 2.2(4), every n -maximal subgroup of P either has a p -nilpotent supplement or is \mathfrak{U}_s -quasinormal in PQ . By using Lemma 4.2, we have that PQ is p -nilpotent. Hence $Q \trianglelefteq PQ$ and thereby $PQ = P \times Q$.

(3) The final contradiction.

From (2), we have $O^p(G) \leq C_G(P)$. **This induces that $E = P \leq Z_\infty(G)$. Therefore G is p -nilpotent.** The final contradiction completes the proof.

Theorem 4.4 *Let G be a finite group and p a prime divisor of $|G|$ with $(|G|, p-1) = 1$. Then G is p -nilpotent if and only if G has a soluble normal subgroup H of G such that G/H is p -nilpotent and every maximal subgroup of every Sylow subgroup of $F(H)$ is \mathfrak{U}_s -quasinormal in G .*

Proof. The necessity is obvious. We only need to prove the sufficiency. Suppose that it is

false and let G be a counterexample with $|G||H|$ is minimal. Let P be an arbitrary given Sylow p -subgroup of $F(H)$. Clearly, $P \trianglelefteq G$. We proceed the proof as follows.

(1) $\Phi(G) \cap P = 1$.

If not, then $1 \neq \Phi(G) \cap P \trianglelefteq G$. Let $R = \Phi(G) \cap P$. Clearly, $(G/R)/(H/R) \simeq G/H \in \mathfrak{F}$. By Gaschütz theorem (see [11, III, Theorem 3.5]), we have that $F(H/R) = F(H)/R$. Assume that P/R is a Sylow p -subgroup of $F(H/R)$ and P_1/R is a maximal subgroup of P/R . Then P is a Sylow p -subgroup of $F(G)$ and P_1 is a maximal subgroup of P . By Lemma 2.2(2) and the hypothesis, P_1/R is \mathfrak{U}_s -quasinormal in G/R . Now, let Q/R be a maximal subgroup of some Sylow q -subgroup of $F(H/R) = F(H)/R$, where $q \neq p$. Then $Q = Q_1R$, where Q_1 is a maximal subgroup of the Sylow q -subgroup of $F(H)$. By hypothesis, Q_1 is \mathfrak{U}_s -quasinormal in G . Hence $Q/R = Q_1R/R$ is \mathfrak{U}_s -quasinormal in G/R by Lemma 2.2(3). This shows that $(G/R, H/R)$ satisfies the hypothesis. The minimal choice of (G, H) implies that G/R is p -nilpotent. It follows that G is p -nilpotent, a contradiction. Hence (1) holds.

(2) $P = \langle x_1 \rangle \times \langle x_2 \rangle \times \cdots \times \langle x_m \rangle$, where every $\langle x_i \rangle$ ($i \in \{1 \cdots m\}$) is a normal subgroup of G with order p .

By (1) and Lemma 2.5, $P = R_1 \times R_2 \times \cdots \times R_m$, where R_i ($i \in \{1 \cdots m\}$) is a minimal normal subgroup of G . We now prove that R_i is of order p , for $i \in \{1 \cdots m\}$.

Assume that $|R_i| > p$, for some i . Without loss of generality, we let $|R_1| > p$ and R_1^* be a maximal subgroup of R_1 . Then, $R_1^* \neq 1$ and $R_1^* \times R_2 \times \cdots \times R_m = P_1$ is a maximal subgroup of P . Put $T = R_2 \times \cdots \times R_m$. Then, clearly, $(P_1)_G = T$. By hypothesis, P_1 is \mathfrak{U}_s -quasinormal in G . Hence by Lemma 2.2(1), there exists a normal subgroup N of G such that $(P_1)_G \leq N$, P_1N is s -permutable in G and $P_1/(P_1)_G \cap N/(P_1)_G \leq Z_\infty^{\mathfrak{U}}(G/(P_1)_G)$. Assume that $P_1/(P_1)_G \cap N/(P_1)_G \neq 1$. Let $Z_\infty^{\mathfrak{U}}(G/(P_1)_G) = V/(P_1)_G = V/T$. Then $P_1 \cap N \leq V$ and $P/T \cap V/T \trianglelefteq G/T$. Since $P \cap V \geq P_1 \cap N \cap V \geq P_1 \cap N > (P_1)_G = T$, $P/T \cap V/T \neq 1$. As $P/T \simeq R_1$ and R_1 is a minimal normal subgroup of G , we have $P/T \subseteq V/T$. This implies that $|R_1| = |P/T| = p$. This contradiction shows that $P_1 \cap N = (P_1)_G = T$. Consequently, $P_1N = R_1^*TN = R_1^*N$ and $R_1^* \cap N = 1$. Since $R_1 \cap N \trianglelefteq G$, $R_1 \cap N = 1$ or $R_1 \cap N = R_1$. If $R_1 \cap N = R_1$, then $R_1^* \subseteq R_1 \subseteq N$, which contradicts $R_1^* \cap N = 1$. Hence $R_1 \cap N = 1$. It follows that $R_1^* = R_1^*(R_1 \cap N) = R_1 \cap R_1^*N$ is s -permutable in G . Thus $O^p(G) \leq N_G(R_1^*)$ by Lemma 2.3(2). This induces that for every maximal subgroup R_1^* of R_1 , we have that $|G : N_G(R_1^*)| = p^\alpha$, where α is an integer. Let $\{R_1^*, R_2^*, \dots, R_t^*\}$ be the set of all maximal subgroups of R_1 . Then p divides t . This contradicts to [11, III, Theorem 8.5(d)]. Thus (2) holds.

(3) $G/F(H)$ is p -nilpotent.

By (2), $F(H) = \langle y_1 \rangle \times \langle y_2 \rangle \times \cdots \times \langle y_n \rangle$, where $\langle y_i \rangle$ ($i \in \{1 \cdots n\}$) is a normal subgroup of G of order p . Since $G/C_G(\langle y_i \rangle)$ is isomorphic with some subgroup of $\text{Aut}(\langle y_i \rangle)$, $G/C_G(\langle y_i \rangle)$ is cyclic. Hence, $G/C_G(\langle y_i \rangle)$ is p -nilpotent for every i . It follows that $G/\cap_{i=1}^n C_G(\langle y_i \rangle)$ is p -nilpotent. Obviously, $C_G(F(G)) = \cap_{i=1}^n C_G(\langle y_i \rangle)$. Hence $G/C_G(F(G))$ is p -nilpotent.

Consequently, $G/(H \cap C_G(F(G))) = G/C_H(F(H))$ is p -nilpotent. Since $F(H)$ is abelian, $F(H) \leq C_H(F(H))$. On the other hand, $C_H(F(H)) \leq F(H)$ since H is soluble. Thus $F(H) = C_H(F(H))$ and so $G/F(H)$ is p -nilpotent.

(4) If K is a minimal normal subgroup of G contained in H , then $K \subseteq F(H)$ and G/K is p -nilpotent.

Let K be an arbitrary minimal normal subgroup of G contained in H . Then K is an elementary abelian p -group for some prime p since H is soluble. Hence $K \leq F(H)$. By Lemma 2.2(2) and (3), we see that G/K (with respect to H/K) satisfies the hypothesis. The minimal choice of (G, H) implies that G/K is p -nilpotent.

(5) *The final contradiction.*

Since the class of all p -nilpotent groups is a saturated formation, by (2) and (4), we see that $K = F(H) = \langle x \rangle$ is the unique minimal normal subgroup of G contained in H , where $\langle x \rangle$ is a cyclic group of order p for some prime p . Since G/K is p -nilpotent, it has a normal p -complement L/K . By Schur-Zassenhaus Theorem, $L = G_{p'}K$, where $G_{p'}$ is a Hall p' -subgroup of G . Since p is the prime divisor of $|G|$ with $(|G|, p-1) = 1$ and $N_L(K)/C_L(K) \simeq \text{Aut}(K)$ is a subgroup of a cyclic group of order $p-1$, we see that $N_L(K) = C_L(K)$. Then, by Burnside Theorem (see [14, (10.1.8)]), we have that L is p -nilpotent. Then $G_{p'} \text{ char } L \trianglelefteq G$, so $G_{p'} \trianglelefteq G$. Hence G is p -nilpotent. The final contradiction completes the proof.

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